

SUNY New Paltz students: your tuition pays for genocide.

Companies who enable and profit from the occupation of Palestine have no place on our campus. For this reason, we the students and faculty of SUNY New Paltz call on our institution to sever all economic ties with the State of Israel.

The Genocide

For the past 75 years, Palestine has been under colonial occupation by the State of Israel. Palestinians have endured government surveillance, displacement, land theft, physical violence, and denial of their right to return home.

For the past six months, Israel has escalated its imperial campaign of terror against people in the Gaza Strip intending to kill, remove, and erase them. Since October, over 34,000 people have been killed, nearly half of them children. Almost all of them were civilians. **This is genocide.** As students, NYS taxpayers, and New Paltz community members, we refuse to invest our money in this violence.

New Paltz's Culpability.

The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement works to "end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law." BDS has identified Siemens, a firm that builds the infrastructure of the Israeli state, as a target for divestment. Siemens develops railroads which run through illegal settlements in the West Bank; it was contracted to construct the EuroAsia interconnector pipeline, which would supply fossil fuels to these settlements. Siemens also supplies security systems to the Gilboa prison, which was built to incarcerate Palestinian political prisoners. New Paltz currently has two active contracts with Siemens.

New Paltz's lack of financial transparency has obfuscated the extent of our investments in the genocide. We don't know how much of our money is being funnelled into complicit companies' pockets, meanwhile our professors are being let go, and our programs are being cut. By failing to provide information on SUNY New Paltz's investments in genocide, the university has failed to act on its 2020 "Commitment to Become an Anti-Racist Campus" which highlights "long-espoused values of equality...and social justice."

We call on the institution to act in accordance with the following demands:

1. **Commit to severing contracts, withdrawing investments, and ending all financial relationships with companies culpable for genocide in Gaza** as named by the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions National Committee, including immediate termination of Siemens contracts C991285 and OC42022.

2. **Commit to an ongoing position of divestment and nonengagement** with current and future companies named by the Palestinian BDS Committee.

3. **Commit to increased transparency and disclosure regarding New Paltz's donations, investments, and contracts.** In addition, we want all financial dealings with private companies to be freely and publically accessible via online search.

In order to uphold this commitment to transparency, we ask that this information also be sent via email to all New Paltz students.

We ask that New Paltz provide disclosure regarding these:

- a full list of companies with whom New Paltz does business
- a full list of companies from whom New Paltz receives charitable donations via the New Paltz Foundation
- Complete, current, and transparent disclosure of SUNY's investment portfolio

As long as these demands are unmet, SUNY New Paltz is culpable for genocide. We invest time, labor, and tuition into this university, and therefore the university must answer to us.

To every student and faculty member who reads this: This is your school. This is your community. You have the power to reject this misuse of your money and labor. This is the time to act. You can start by sharing this with a friend.

To the SUNY New Paltz administration: **Cut the contracts now.**